

Michigan Wildlife Services

Forestry/Wildlife and Wetlands Consulting

1003N McKilligan Manistique, MI 49854

(906) 341-5013

1 - 347-710-4402 fax

Senator Tom Casperson
Senate Building
Lansing, Michigan

Dear Senator Casperson:

May 30, 2012

I am writing in regard to Senate bills numbers 1057,1058,1059,1060 and 1061. These are the bills that would transfer private land management and commercial forest land regulation to Soil Conservation District Authority. Having been a private forestry consultant since 1991 I have watched private forest land programs both with and without Soil district involvement. Private land management programs were far more effective when Soil Districts had a resource person available to help guide landowners through a management process on their lands. Soil district personnel were readily accessible to the public and fairly assisted landowners in obtaining further assistance in the private sector if needed.

For the last ten years Department of Natural Resource administered private land forestry programs have been especially ineffective in providing meaningful assistance to the private sector. Now at a time when the forest products industry depends more than ever on wood resources from private lands these assistance programs run by the DNR are not meeting the needs of either the landowners or the forest products industry.

I am in support of the Senate Bills which would restore private land forestry programs to Soil Districts. When the Soil districts were active in the past they were an asset to my business and helped many landowners manage and develop their property.

Sincerely,

Gregg D. Stoll

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